



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ВІДДІЛ ПРЕСИ, ОСВІТИ І КУЛЬТУРИ
ПОСОЛЬСТВО СПОЛУЧЕНИХ ШТАТІВ АМЕРИКИ**

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**DEMOCRACY COMMISSION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM / MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FUND
THEMATIC COMPETITION: FREE & FAIR LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine calls for proposals from Ukrainian NGOs and media outlets to support free, fair, and transparent local elections in Ukraine.

The project activities must fall into the following areas to be considered for funding in this thematic competition:

- Conducting voter education campaigns focused on election procedures and the voter registration system, in order to enable the largest number of eligible voters to participate. Such campaigns must be impartial and non-partisan, and may involve radio, print, TV, or new media.
- Organizing non-partisan get-out-the-vote drives to mobilize people to vote; and/or to increase young voters' turnout through running peer-to-peer activities or new media campaigns.
- Monitoring, reporting and preventing violations of the right to vote and the right to run for elected office; and promoting fair and transparent voting procedures. Providing non-partisan advice and assistance to prevent abuses.
- Exit polling on the regional level to collect data about voter turnout and to assess voting trends.
- Freelance or regional reporting on media and journalist access to political candidates, transparency of election committees, voter registration, preventing violations of election law, etc.
- Conducting trainings for journalists on their rights to access on information, and how to best implement those rights in the context of local elections. Providing legal aid or assistance to journalists to ensure they are protected under the law and able to freely document irregularities.
- Organizing TV or radio debates and online forums with political candidates or their representatives. The goals of the debates and forums should be to increase public participation and awareness of the candidates' program.
- Organizing trainings for journalists on how to cover elections in a non-partisan and unbiased manner; organizing trainings for journalists on the mechanics of Ukraine's electoral system to ensure informed reporting.

The U.S. Embassy will fund high-quality and results-oriented projects from media and NGOs throughout Ukraine. The duration of programs may vary depending on the proposals, but the length of the project

should be no longer than six months. The average project budget will be \$10,000–\$15,000, subject to availability of funds and subject to potential changes in election procedures.

COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible organizations and their members may not represent any political candidate, or serve as appointed or elected public officials at the time of application or for the duration of the grant. Media organizations which belong to and/or are financially supported by any political party or candidate (other than via intermittent advertising) are not eligible to apply.
- Eligible organizations may not make any expenditures with their own funds on behalf of the political candidates or their representatives.
- Grant money may not be used to contribute to any political campaigns, nor may it be used to offset the expense of contributing to any political campaign.
- Eligible organizations may not publish or communicate anything that explicitly or implicitly favors or opposes any political candidate.
- Application to, or receipt of funds from this thematic competition, does not disqualify any organization from competing for other U.S. government funds, including the general competition for the Democracy Commission Small Grants Program or the Media Development Fund, or other thematic competitions.

TO APPLY:

Only electronic applications will be accepted. No paper application will be accepted. You must submit your application in PDF format. Applications must be completed in both English and Ukrainian.

Project proposals, marked “Free & Fair Local Elections,” must be received no later than **5.00 pm** (Ukraine time) on **June 26, 2015** at one of the following email addresses:

Electronic copy:

KyivDemgrants@state.gov (for Democracy Commission projects)

KyivMDF@state.gov (for Media Development projects)

In all correspondence please refer to the **Free & Fair Local Elections Competition**.

You must use the standard Democracy Grants Program or Media Development Fund application forms and follow the instructions provided at:

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/democracy-grants.html>

or

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/media-fund.html>

Applicants may also request information by calling (044) 521-5044 or by writing to KyivDemgrants@state.gov or KyivMDF@state.gov .

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for the thematic competition.

Applications received by May 16, 2015 will receive priority consideration.

Applicants are encouraged strongly to review the information on the U.S. Embassy Democracy Commission Small Grants Program and Media Development Fund, prior to submitting their proposals.